

THE JEW IN LETTERS

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Sir Francis Palgrave founded a dynasty almost unique in the history of English letters. His eldest son was Francis Turner Palgrave, Professor of Poetry at Oxford and compiler of that classical anthology, *The Golden Treasury*; the second was William Gifford Palgrave, missionary, Oriental traveller and diplomat, author of *A Year's Journey through Central and Eastern Arabia*; the third was Robert Harry Inglis Palgrave, editor of *The Dictionary of Political Economy*; the fourth, Sir Reginald Francis Douce Palgrave, Clerk of the House of Commons from 1886 to 1900, was the editor of *Rules of Procedure of the House of Commons* and author of various works on constitutional practice, as well as a proficient water-colour artist.

A few other names belonging to this period deserve mention: John Adolphus, barrister (a converted member of the family which founded the Great Synagogue in London in 1690) who defended the Cato Street conspirators in 1820 and published, among other historical works, a *History of England* from 1760 to 1883, and *Biographical Memoirs of the French Revolution*; his son, John Leicester Adolphus, a well-known critic in his day, who was the first person to argue methodically in favour of Scott's authorship of the Waverley Novels; Lewis Goldsmith, a master of journalistic propaganda and an unrelenting opponent of Napoleon; and Grace Aguilar, whose historical writings and novels

still retain
their charm.

The second half of the nineteenth century naturally saw, with increase in numbers and growing acclimatisation, an extension of the Jewish participation in English literary life. Sir Arthur Wing Pinero summed up the tendencies of the age in his plays, such as *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray* and *Trelawney of the Wells*, and gave English drama a new heart. It was he who with Henry